

Applicant : Gilbert Wolrich et al.
Serial No. : 10/069,306
Filed : July 3, 2002
Page : 2 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-303US1 / P9624US

Pending Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of operating a multithreaded parallel processor comprising:
directing the processor having a plurality of microengines to swap a currently running context, corresponding to a first thread, in a specified microengine to let another context, corresponding to a different thread, execute in that microengine and cause a different context and associated program counter to be selected.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the directing the processor wakes up the swapped out context when a signal specified in a context-swap program instruction is activated.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the signal is specified as a parameter in the directing and specifies an occurrence of an event.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "sram Swap", and the directing swaps out a current context and wakes it up when the thread's SRAM signal is received.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "sdram Swap," the directing will swap out a current context and wakes it up when the thread's SDRAM signal is received.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "FBI" will swap out a current context and wakes it up when the thread's FBI signal is received indicating that an FBI CSR, Scratchpad, TFIFO, or RFIFO operation has completed.

Applicant : Gilbert Wolrich et al.
Serial No. : 10/069,306
Filed : July 3, 2002
Page : 3 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-303US1 / P9624US

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "seq_num1_change/seq_num2_change", which swaps out a current context and wakes it up when a value of the sequence number changes.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "inter_thread" which swaps out a current context and wakes it up when the thread's interthread signal is received.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "voluntary" which will swap out a current context if another thread is ready to run, and if the thread is swapped, the swapped thread is automatically re-enabled to run at some subsequent context arbitration point.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "auto_push" which swaps out a current context and wakes it up when SRAM transfer read register data has been automatically pushed by a FBus interface.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "start_receive" that swaps out a current context and wakes it up when new data in a receive FIFO is available for this thread to process.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "kill" which prevents a current context or thread from executing again until an appropriate enable bit for the thread is set in a CTX_ENABLES register.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the parameter specifies "pci" which swaps out a current context and wakes it up when a PCI unit signals that a DMA transfer has been completed.

Applicant : Gilbert Wohrich et al.
Serial No. : 10/069,306
Filed : July 3, 2002
Page : 4 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-303US1 / P9624US

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein directing further comprises:

an optional_token "defer one" which specifies that one instruction will be executed after this reference before the context is swapped.

15. (Previously presented) A method of operating a multithreaded parallel processor, the method comprising:

evaluating a specified parameter to determine a state of an executing context process corresponding to a first thread; and

performing a swapping operation to cause a different context and associated program counter, corresponding to a different thread, to be selected in accordance with the value of the evaluated specified parameter.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein performing swaps a currently running context in a specified microengine to let another context execute in that microengine.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the parameter specifies an occurrence of an event.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the parameter specifies "sram Swap", and performing a swapping comprises swapping out a current context and waking it up when the thread's SRAM signal is received.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the parameter specifies "sram Swap", and performing a swapping comprises swapping a current context and waking it up when the thread's SDRAM signal is received.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the parameter specifies "inter_thread" which swaps out a current context and wakes it up when the thread's interthread signal is received.

Applicant : Gilbert Wolrich et al.
Serial No. : 10/069,306
Filed : July 3, 2002
Page : 5 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-303US1 / P9624US

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
an optional_token "defer one" which specifies that one instruction will be executed after
this reference before the context is swapped.

22. (Previously presented) A parallel processor that can execute multiple contexts
and that comprises:

- a register stack;
- a program counter for each executing context;
- an arithmetic logic unit coupled to the register stack and a program control store that
stores a context swap instruction that causes the processor to:
 - evaluate a parameter specified in the context swap instruction to determine a state of an
executing context process corresponding to a first thread; and
 - perform a swap operation to cause a different context and associated program counter,
corresponding to a different thread, to be selected in accordance with the value of the evaluated
specified parameter and which saves an old program counter value.

23. (Previously presented) The processor of claim 22 wherein the context swap
instruction wakes up the swapped out context when a specified signal is activated.

24. (Previously presented) A computer program product residing on a computer
readable medium for causing a multithreaded parallel processor to perform a function comprises
instructions causing the processor to:

- evaluate a specified parameter to determine a state of an executing context process
corresponding to a first thread; and
- perform a swapping operation to cause a different context and associated program
counter, corresponding to a different thread, to be selected in accordance with the value of the
evaluated specified parameter.

25. (Previously presented) The product of claim 24 wherein the processor wakes up
the swapped out context when a specified signal corresponding to the specified parameter is
activated, wherein the specified parameter is identifies in a context-swap instruction.